
OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. During the last eight-week cycle, the following were the main areas of work under my Health and Leisure Portfolio:

Health

2. On 23 May I attended a meeting of the DBC Health Improvement Group where it was agreed that I would chair these in the future. The Health Improvement group acts as the Steering Group driving forward the DBC Health Improvement Strategy. The meeting received reports from the Employee Health Action Group and work in-hand regarding alcohol misuse prevention, treatment and control.
3. An initial induction meeting was held between myself and the Locality Director of Public Health.
4. Work to deliver the Healthy Communities targets in the pilot LAA continues. Work around problems of alcohol misuse, obesity and smoking cessation will be the focus of my attention.
5. I have attached a series of briefings from all the department heads that my portfolio covers.

Sports Development

Darlington Community Games 2008

6. The Community Games coaching has commenced in 20 schools across Darlington within five sports Football; Tag Rugby; Tennis; Athletics and Cricket. Over 400 children will receive 120 hours of coaching which will culminate in the Darlington Community Games at Eastbourne Sports Complex on 23 July.

Darlington Sport and Physical Activity Strategy – Stage 2 Applications Accepted

7. The Sports Development Team submitted the Stage 2 bids to appoint development officers who will work on: a Club and Equality project, an Outdoor Activity Project, and the expansion of the Get Everybody Motivated Scheme in March 2008. The Darlington Community Sports Network and the Local Strategic Partnership endorsed all the bids. The funding has now been agreed by Sport England and £184k will be released in June. The posts are going out to advert in July and the three new officers will be in post by August.

Community Sports Coach Swimming Update

8. The new Darlington Swimming Community Sports Coach continues to develop swimming and the club within Darlington. A new coaching team has been employed at the club for the first time in over three years and all squads now have a coach and parent squad representative. Swim 21 application will be submitted within the next three months and the club brochure will be completed by August. A young swimmers organisers course was delivered at Eston, which was the first in the North East and the first disability swimming camp organised for Darlington.
9. Diving Camps and Swimming Camps went well at Easter and will be rolled out again in the summer and Darlington competed in the Inter District Festival at Billingham Forum and did extremely well in that event.

Easter Programme of Activities

10. A full comprehensive Easter programme of Activities was planned with a range of sports available to children across the town. The activities included: Gymnastics; Trampolining; Star Track Athletics; Mobile Skate Park; Swimming and Tennis at a range of community venues in Darlington. The courses were well attended and many of these will be added to the summer programme.

Longfield's Extended Schools Update

11. The Programme of activities for March and April have been extremely well attended with activities ranging from Snooker; Fencing; Bowling; Skiing; Trampolining; Gymnastics; Table Tennis and Badminton. Consultation has taken place in Longfield School and Harrowgate Hill and Cheerleading, Extra Dance classes and Horse Riding has been added to the programme.

Zone Active

12. The good practice delivered by Zone Active in Eastbourne, Park East and Lascelles wards over the past three years will continue. Plans are being implemented to ensure support and access to some funding streams. The Zone Active Celebration Event was held on Wednesday 11 June at the Dolphin Centre to thank all partners who have made zone active such a successful project.

Darlington Dance Mats

13. Pupils at Darlington schools can enjoy the latest craze in keeping fit and healthy. Darlington Council in partnership with the PCT has bought 12 new dance machine mats for schools and the wider community to use.
14. The mats can be used individually or together and provide a fun routine for people to follow using lights and music. So far the mats are being used at the Education Village in Haughton, but are mobile and through the Darlington School Sports Partnership will be rolled out to other schools in September. The Darlington Sports Development Team will also be setting up community based activity sessions and using them as part of the Council's summer programme of activities. A full programme of community classes has been set up and start the week beginning 9 June at Haughton Education Village.

Darlington Extended Activities

15. Funding is being mainstreamed through County Sports Partnerships to each authority in the Tees Valley to work with the Community Sport Networks to implement a programme of activities within Darlington. These activities will look to engage children who are currently only participating in a small amount of sport. A cross section of partners within Darlington have met ranging from the Sports Development team, School Sport Partnerships, PCT, Youth Service, Local Motion and Tees Valley Sport and a full programme of extended activities was developed. Activities included Skate School, Community Based Multi Activity, Dance Mat Fever, Trampolining, Street Cheer, Street Dance and will be implemented in September 2008.

Community Sports Coach Update

16. The Community Sports Coach (CSC) continues to deliver a variety of sport and physical activity based sessions in Culture venues, and in community settings. Sessions include: Key Stage One multi-skills clubs, activity as part of the Zone Active project, delivery of the Level 1 and Level 2 Award in Sports Leadership, Speed, Agility, Quickness sessions, sport specific coaching in schools and in community settings and mentoring other coaches and leaders.

Primary School Festivals

17. The Sports Development team have worked alongside officers from the School Sports Partnership to facilitate a whole range of Primary School Sports festivals. The first festival to take place was the swimming galas held at the Dolphin Centre. With 24 schools from Darlington taking part, there was a high standard of swimming from all competitors. The winners of the small schools gala were High Coniscliffe and the winner of the large schools gala was Abbey Road.
18. The second festival to take place was the Primary Basketball Festival. With 16 teams taking part, the event was a close run battle, with North Road eventually winning the trophy.
19. In May, the Primary Netball Festival took place at Longfield School. In total, 19 schools took part in what was a very competitive event. The winners were Polam Hall, with themselves and Gurney Pease going through to represent Darlington in the Inter-District event in June.
20. In June and July, the last primary festival of the year will take place with the Athletics festival, split into two days of track and field events.

Junior One Life

21. Seven Families from Darlington took part in a six week programme at Longfield School. Parents and Children attended sessions on nutrition and healthy eating and also took part in numerous sporting activities. The pilot was really successful and some of the children have accessed Trampolining sessions at the Dolphin Centre.

Darlington Trampoline Club

22. A group of young people were successful in applying for £8K of DOSH money to set up a Darlington Trampoline club for youngsters from 5-25 year old. Over eight coaches have attended Trampoline Club coaching and there are now two sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Dolphin Centre. The sessions are extremely popular and we have recently acquired another Trampoline from Beck House so we can take more children on the waiting list.

Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club

23. I met with a delegation from Darlington Harriers and Athletics Club to hear their views, concerns and ambitions for the athletics track and facilities at Eastbourne Sports Complex. Work will get underway to re-turf the athletics infield while improvements to the track and spectator facilities will be assessed.

Events

24. As from 21 April 2008 the Council's Events Team expanded and now includes Countryside events, Museum events, South Park events and Cultural events.

Green Fair – Sunday 27 April 2007

25. The annual celebration of Darlington Countryside was held in South Park on Sunday 27 April 2008. A variety of environmental organisations attended including the Recycling team, Tees Forrest, Energy Saving Trust, Ramblers Association and many more. A range of activities was also provided throughout the day.

The North East Keep Fit Association Annual Festival - Saturday 3 May 2008

26. For the first time, The Dolphin Centre held The North East Keep Fit Association Annual Festival. Over 500 spectators and 200 competitors attended the event. The Centre received excellent feedback from all concerned and we are hopeful of holding the event again next year.

John Wade Family Fun Day – Sunday 4 May 2008

27. The annual John Wade Family Fun Day was held in South Park on Sunday 4 May. Despite poor weather the event attracted hundreds of people whom enjoyed an afternoon of street theatre, live music, children's entertainment and crafts.

Visual and Public Art

28. We are currently working with Arts UK to commission a new public artwork for the Parkside development.
29. A new mural has been commissioned for the Studio Gallery at Darlington Arts Centre. Illustrator Jasmine Mercer has created her designs based around the theme of storytelling and linking to the visual arts and young people's theatre programmes at the Arts Centre. As part of this commission, two days of education workshops were held providing the opportunity for school children and members of ArtsSpark to work with a professional storyteller. The mural will be installed at the Arts Centre in November 2008.

Polish Day

30. On Saturday 31 May the Arts Centre hosted a day dedicated to engaging with the Polish community. 84 people attended the day from the Polish community in Darlington in which they participated in workshops including; ceramics; plaster moulding and jewellery making. Other activities included dance taster sessions and children's workshops in jewellery and card making. A Polish artist was employed to deliver one of the workshops. Up to 40 Polish people took part in consultations and three tours of the Arts Centre.
31. The day was managed by the Arts Development Team in partnership with Mental Health Matters. The Arts Development Team raised funding for the project from the Arts Council 'Maximise' initiative and Mental Health Matters also raised funding towards the costs. Darlington Media Group also complemented the day with a programme of workshops, drop in sessions and an exhibition opening.

Maximise

32. As part of the ongoing work with the Maximise project, a staff training session was programmed and delivered by a consultant. The theme of the workshop was language and communities.
33. The Arts Development Team have been consulting with diverse groups in Darlington. They were asked how they felt about attending arts events and identify any barriers to engagement and participation and suggest any improvement that could be made to the service. Plans have been developed to continue and build and develop on the relationships.

ArtsSpark

34. The first North East Regional Network Event for Youth Leaders took place on 28 May 2008 at the Arts Centre. Darlington Arts Centre has taken the lead on developing this network, working alongside the National Association of Youth Theatre. It provides opportunities for Youth Theatre Leaders and organisations throughout the region to share skills, discuss common issues, plan regional events, network and create opportunities for young people.
35. The first edition of the ArtsSpark newsletter was sent to all ArtsSpark members last week. This regular newsletter was composed with input from young people and will provide information on arts events and activities for young people and also the opportunity for them to express and share their ideas and feedback.

Civic Theatre

36. The Civic Theatre was chosen by UK Production to be the venue for the production week and launch venue for the UK tour of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. 5170 people saw the production whilst it was at Darlington.

Sponsorship

37. Following their very successful seasonal sponsorship of the Civic Theatre, Blackett, Hart and Pratt Solicitors (BHP Law) has agreed to become Principal Sponsor for the coming year. To coincide with some re-branding and expansion, the company sees this as an ideal opportunity to raise its profile in the town through as large an audience as possible. They will sponsor

the summer and autumn/winter 2008 and spring 2009 seasons, with a view to extending sponsorship at the end of that period.

38. The Sponsorship team have secured sponsorship through an initiative called 'Ad In The Hole' at Stressholme Golf Centre. The sponsor, John Wade Group will have its name in all 18 holes on the course, as well as on the flags in every hole. Stressholme is the first municipal course in the UK to do this and we will be using the sponsorship money to improve facilities and services for all visitors to Stressholme.

Tourist Information Centre

39. Darlington Information located at 13 Horsemarket has been relocated within the Dolphin Centre in June 2008. The new venue will compliment the wide range of services already available in the Dolphin Centre and will enable us to improve the service and information available to Darlington residents and tourists to the town.

Marketing

40. The Darlington Arts 'What's On Brochure' was launched at the beginning of April and we have already seen some great shows including Madam Butterfly South Pacific, Dave Spikey at the Civic Theatre while we have welcomed The Blockheads and John Bishop to the Arts Centre.

Head of Steam Darlington Railway Museum

41. Following a successful opening re launch event the museum has continued to receive some positive feedback on displays, facility presentation and content of the new look museum. Visitor figures are currently at a good level with a total of 9,943 visitors to date which includes 390 annual memberships for Head of steam. A programme of craft activities has been put together for the school holidays to help achieve visitor numbers during this period.

Learning and Access

42. After re-opening, the museum held an open afternoon for teachers to promote visits at the Museum and what we could offer. Between re-opening and the time of writing the museum has had ten visits, with a total of 528 children, with another ten visits already booked before the end of the school term. The visits are mainly from Primary aged children, from schools within the Borough. A week of joint activities with Locomotion (the National Railway Museum at Shildon) is planned for the first week in July, on the theme of WW2 and Evacuees.
43. The museum is planning a recruitment drive for volunteers to tie in with Volunteers Week at the beginning of June. Volunteers help with guided tours, events and in the Study Centre with our collections.
44. Links with museum partners in the Tees Valley are leading to a wide variety of new and exciting projects in the coming months – including involvement in the Tees Valley Photography Festival and working with groups of refugees and schools.

Events

45. On Sunday 25 May a Vintage Rally was held at the museum. This was a new event for the Museum, working in partnership with the NVTa (Northern Vintage Transport Association). At the event there were craft stalls, activities for children including face painting and Punch and Judy, and craft activities. The Rally field itself was free, along with the activities, with an admission charge for the museum as usual. Whilst there were activities for children, the aim of the rally event was to reach new audiences, with a target of attracting 250 visitors. The next event will be the Guided Tours with actors on the first three weekends in August.

Collections

46. The Documentation Assistant is continuing accession of the backlog of objects in the Museum, and has recently been working on newspaper articles, track diagrams, photographs and books. The Ken Hoole Study Centre has been busy with enquiries and visitors since the reopening, and good feedback has been received regarding the new facilities.
47. The Collections Officer has submitted a funding application, and is exploring other avenues of funding to acquire the 'Darlington' nameplate, which is very significant to the collection. Locomotion No.1's firing shovel was donated to the Museum on 28 May, after being taken from Bank Top Station in the 1950s.

Register Office

48. The Register Office continues to play a key role in the everyday functioning of the lives of everyone across the Borough.
49. In May and June 359 births and 231 deaths were registered. The supply of certificates (due to the increasing interest in family history) continues to be popular with 702 sales over the two months.
50. Having the indexes of all births, deaths and marriages registered in Darlington (from 1837 to date) on the Council's website contributes to the number of visitors using the site. The Register Office continues to be the third most popular site on the website with approximately 40,000 of its pages opened in May and June, equating to 8 per cent of all pages viewed on the corporate website.
51. As the new Cabinet member with the Portfolio that includes the Register Office, I am looking forward to attending my first citizenship ceremony and also to attending a Ceremony later in the year at Hummersknott School (who have agreed to host a ceremony as part of the students curriculum work on citizenship).
52. Work has been ongoing with visits by register office management to hotels registered as approved premises to conduct weddings and civil partnerships. As well Central Hall and the two rooms at the Register Office, there are currently six hotels licensed across the Borough. 96 Ceremonies have been performed in May and June.

Trading Standards

53. Trading Standards Officers participated in a national campaign at Durham Tees Valley Airport at the end of May, to warn holidaymakers heading for Malaga, Tenerife and Lanzarote about the dangers of buying into Holiday Clubs whilst on holiday. Scratchcards,

similar to the ones that touts hand out were given to passengers. These Scratchcards carried a warning message from the Office of Fair Trading about the dangers of buying into Holiday Clubs, rather than the usual offer of a prize, which to collect the holidaymaker would have to attend a high pressure sales presentation. The event was covered by the local radio stations.

Councillor Andrew Scott
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Health and Leisure